NWS Non-Technical Training Study Team Draft Topics List

Comments are appreciated on this working draft! Iÿÿ especially interested in knowing if you have suggestions for better itemizing of topics, so that they are easier to work and report on.

I donÿÿsee any of these topics as exclusive. I could imagine any or all of us working on our own aspects of these topics. In that case, the outline below might be a draft outline of our report, that we could collectively write to and refine.

Iÿÿ thinking of developing a prototype Website. If any of you have any recommendations/ suggestions for topics or links, please let me know. I donÿÿsee any need to host this at NGDC (part of NESDIS), other than for convenience (as I can develop materials myself, and post them to NGDC Web development servers). Thus, a possible ÿÿealÿÿlocation for this in the Training Division, or at the Training Center, might be a better location for such Web materials if they prove useful.

Given: the draft proposal, our own thoughts, and resources available to us (telephone contacts to training specialists that we can uncover, the Web, information on various training programs).

Objectives: Prepare a report to NWS management on possible enhancements to NWSÿÿtraining program, strategic objectives that can be helped by such enhancements, and resources available to us. The report should also recommend follow-up activities, should management find anything attractive in the report. Finally, the report could inventory useful Websites, or perhaps link to a Website that we develop with such resources contained therein.

Preliminary Title of Report: *Mobilizing Vision 2005: Training a Better Weather Service*

1. Introduction: Incorporate whatever background from the draft proposal (and whatever other background materials we might recommend).

2. What broad arenas have others developed that NWS could benefit from? We hope that the ÿÿRoss Perot approachÿÿseeking to avoid reinventing the wheel where we can use or adapt an existing effort, can be useful.
    A. What enabling approaches are appropriate to a training program traditionally focused primarily on technical topics? Are any of the following topics appropriate?
        i.   SFA-related topics
        ii.   Topics related to teamwork
        iii. Topics related to work-life issues (conflicts between job and home environments, and their effects on morale/productivity).
        iv.   Topics related to career development
        i.   Others?
    B. How does a training program deliver results, when priorities for ÿÿtrainingÿÿoften fall below other budgetary and workload priorities? If capacity-building within NWS is called ÿÿtrainingÿÿdoes it take a back seat, whereas if training becomes a vital part of meeting a goal in the strategic plan, does it move to a front seat?

3. What sources already exist for training?
   A. What topics have been developed within NWS? What training activities in the Regions, or in individual offices in NWS, might be useful if publicized more widely in NWS, such as on a revised training Website?
   B. What topics have been developed by other NOAA offices?
   C. What topics have been developed by other DOC bureaus?
   D. What topics have been developed by other governmental agencies (federal or other)?
   E. What topics have been developed by others for consumption at least partly by governmental agencies?
   F. What topics have been developed for other audiences, that might be worth adapting to NWS?
   G. After the ÿRoss Perot approachÿÿsearch is done, what topics are useful, that we have not seen developed elsewhere?

4. - What potential partners are available to help co-develop such training?
   - What potential markets might be available for courses that NWS develops itself (or contracts out for development)?
   - What potential does a non-technical NWS training initiative have for
     A. Interest by the new Administrationÿÿstated emphasis on education?
     B. Partnership with some institution(s) that might arise from the Administrationÿÿdeveloping education interest?
     C. Others?

5. What media are currently effective in training? Under what circumstances should such media be used? What are the challenges faced by these specific media? Which challenges can be overcome, and how?
   A. Are traditional classroom environments useful? For what topics/objectives?
   B. Under what conditions are video tapes useful?
   C. Under what conditions is videoconferencing useful?
   D. Where are PC-based methods, using the World Wide Web, CD-ROMs, etc. appropriate? When this is the case, what are appropriate baseline PC configurations for such training? Minimal speed, RAM, multimedia capabilities, etc.?
   E. Under what conditions is a facilitated discussion useful?
   F. Others?

6. What courses can be taught without follow-up? Where follow-up is recommended, how can this practically be achieved? Are occasional teleconferences, videoconferences, newsletters (hardcopy or emailed), Website updates (with email notification of updates) useful?

7. Recommendations

8. Appendices?